

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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JUNE 14, 1836.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. LEIGH made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the petition of the heirs of Colonel Richard Kidder Meade, deceased, reports :*

That the petitioners represent and prove that Richard Kidder Meade was appointed a captain in Colonel Woodford's regiment of the Virginia line, (which was one of the Virginia regiments on continental establishment,) in the year 1775 ; that he served in that rank till 1777, when he was taken into the family of General Washington as an aid-de-camp ; that he continued in General Washington's family till the beginning of the year 1781, when, being in bad health, he obtained a furlough, and returned to Virginia ; that he was actively engaged in such service as he had it in his power to render, during Lord Cornwallis's invasion of Virginia in 1781 ; and, in particular, was at the siege of York, but in what particular corps or service he was then employed does not appear ; nor does it appear that he ever afterwards rejoined the regular army. He ceased, therefore, to be an aid-de-camp to the commander-in-chief, at least as early as the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York ; but it is probable that he retained his commission of captain in the line, since he could have had no motive to resign it at that stage of the war in order to avoid danger and hardship in the service, and the only effect of a resignation *then*, would have been to forfeit his claim to the compensation provided by the resolutions of Congress for his services.

As aid-de-camp to the commander-in-chief, he was entitled to the brevet rank of lieutenant colonel, and to the pay and emoluments of a lieutenant colonel ; but his rank in the line was still that of a captain. He certainly did not serve in the capacity of aid-de-camp till the end of the war ; but, as, for the reasons above stated, it seems in the highest degree improbable that he resigned his commission in the line, the committee regards him as having been a supernumerary captain from the surrender of the British army at Yorktown in October, 1781, till the close of the war ; and it reports a bill for the relief of the petitioners accordingly.

